

## Message Text

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E.E. 11652: NGXA

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: HIGH-LEVEL SWEDISH BUSINESS GROUP'S VISIT TO U.S. AND  
TURN-DOWN OF REQUEST TO CALL ON PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

REF: STOCKHOLM 364; STOCKHOLM 245

1. THE SVENSKA DAGBLADET OF FEBRUARY 7 CARRIED A FRONT PAGE NEWS STORY FILED FROM WASHINGTON (BJORN AHLANDER) ON THE TURN-DOWN OF THE REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL SWEDISH BUSINESS GROUP LED BY PRINCE BERTIL TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD DURING THEIR SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN LATE FEBRUARY. AHLANDER SPECULATES THAT THIS WHITE HOUSE DECISION WAS RELATED TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY A "SWEDISH SPOKESMAN" (READ MFA MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON) CRITICIZING THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS PLANS TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM. HE REFERS TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN SWEDEN AND HIS EXPRESSION OF DISPLEASURE WITH THE STATEMENT; AND A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SOURCE (UNNAMED) WHO NOTED THAT OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUST TREAD SOFTLY SINCE SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF HAS NOT FORGOTTEN THE "CAUSTIC -- AND PARTLY UNMOTIVATED -- CRITICISM BY THE SWEDISH SPOKESMAN", AND FURTHER, THAT IT WAS NOT DUE TO THE LACK OF TIME, BUT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OWN IRRITATION THAT THE GROUP WAS NOT RECEIVED. THE WRITER STATES THAT NEITHER THE FOREIGN OFFICE NOR AXEL IVEROTH OF THE FEDERATION OF SWEDISH INDUSTRIES WHO WAS IN THE UNITED

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STATES TO PREPARE FOR THE BUSINESS GROUP'S VISIT HAD ANY

COMMENTS. THE WRITER STATES THAT THE FEELING IN THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IS THAT THE VISIT PROGRAM WAS SO PRELIMINARY THAT "IT IS MEANINGLESS TO REGARD THE CANCELLED VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE AS A SNUB." NEVERTHELESS, HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE AMERICAN REACTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON'S SPEECH HAS AGAIN MADE THE RELATIONS (BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES) "CHILLIER".

2. AFTONBLADET OF FEBRUARY 7 ALSO HEADLINED THE TURN-DOWN OF THE APPOINTMENT REQUEST AND STATES IN EFFECT THAT THE PAPER HAD CONFIRMED WITH AMBASSADOR WACHTMEISTER IN WASHINGTON THAT THE TURN-DOWN COULD NOT BE INTERPRETED IN ANY OTHER WAY THAN BY RELATING THE DECISION TO SVEN ANDERSSON'S SPEECH.

3. WE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR IN OUR TALKS WITH SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND WITH AXEL IVEROTH THAT WE HAVE HAD NO INFORMATION OR INDICATION THAT THERE WAS ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH AND THE TURN-DOWN OF THE REQUEST BY THE SWEDISH BUSINESS GROUP FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT.

4. I HAVE RECEIVED CALLS FROM AXEL IVEROTH AND FROM AMBASSADOR GUNNAR JARRING WHO IS SCHEDULED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SWEDISH BUSINESS GROUP ON WHETHER THE VISIT TO THE U.S. SHOULD BE CANCELLED. I SAID THAT THIS IS A MATTER FOR THEM TO DECIDE.  
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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